THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The proposal of Indian Airlines for purchase of six 50 seater ATR 42-500 aircraft was considered by the Government in June, 1999. However, the proposal was not found viable. Therefore, the Government advised Indian Airlines to explore the possibility of acquiring these aircraft on lease basis. Currently, Indian Airlines is in the process of finalising drylease of ATR-42-320 aircraft.

Survey on water scarcity

*28. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that water expert from Maharashtra has conducted field survey in 12 States to prepare a basic treatise on land and water resources development strategy;

(b) if so, whether it has been found in the survey that 300 million people are at present severely affected by water scarcity in the country;

(c) whether in many parched areas of a number of States, situation is very threatening; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to consider the recommendations made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) The Government is not aware of any such survey conducted by a water expert from Maharashtra. However, as per the latest assessment (1993) of the water resources of the country made by Central Water Commission (CWC) and the population assessed in the 2001. Census, the average annual per capita water availability in the basins namely, Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert; Sabarmati; East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Kanyakumari; Pennar; West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Surashtra including Luni; Cauvery; Tapi and Mahi is less than 1000 cubic metre against the national average per capita water availability of 1820 cubic metre. According to the international criteria, a situation of annual per capita availability of water of less than 1000 cubic metre is considered as scarcity condition.